

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 066352
ORIGIN SS-25

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 066352

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, VN, US

SUBJECT: TALKS WITH VIETNAMESE IN PARIS

1. PLEASE HAVE PRATT PASS TO SRV EMBASSY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY TO SRV FOREIGN MINISTER TRINH.

2. BEGIN TEXT: DEAR MR. MINISTER:

PRESIDENT CARTER AND I HAVE RECEIVED THE REPORT OF MR. LEONARD WOODCOCK AND THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION REGARDING THEIR RECENT VISIT TO YOUR COUNTRY. WE GREATLY APPRECIATE THE EXCELLENT RECEPTION GIVEN THEM BY YOUR GOVERNMENT AND THE CONSTRUCTIVE DISCUSSIONS THEY HAD WITH PRIME MINISTER PHAM VAN DONG, YOURSELF, AND WITH YOUR DELEGATION LED BY VICE MINISTER PHAN HIEN.

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THE COMMISSION HAS INFORMED THE PRESIDENT OF YOUR PROPOSAL TO HOLD DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS IN PARIS. THE PRESIDENT HAS ASKED ME TO INFORM YOU AND PRIME MINISTER PHAM VAN DONG THAT THE UNITED STATES AGREES TO SUCH DISCUSSIONS ON ISSUES INVOLVING NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. WE HOPE TO BE

ABLE TO INFORM YOU SOON OF THE NAME OF THE REPRESENTATIVE WHOM WE WILL BE APPOINTING. MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE DATES FOR THE INITIATION OF DISCUSSIONS CAN BE WORKED OUT THROUGH THE CHANNELS ALREADY ESTABLISHED BETWEEN OUR RESPECTIVE EMBASSIES IN PARIS.

LET ME ASSURE YOU THAT WE INTEND TO ENTER INTO THESE DISCUSSIONS WITH GOODWILL AND UNDERSTANDING AND IN THE SAME SPIRIT OF EQUALITY AND MUTUAL RESPECT WHICH PREVAILED DURING THE VISIT OF THE PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION TO HANOI.

PLEASE ACCEPT, MR. MINISTER, MY HIGH REGARD AND PERSONAL BEST WISHES. CYRUS VANCE. END TEXT.

3. AS YOU KNOW, THE PRESIDENT ANNOUNCED AT PRESS CONFERENCE MARCH 23 THAT U.S. WOULD ACCEPT SRV PROPOSAL. HE NOTED THAT LATTER CONTAINED NO PRECONDITIONS AND SAID THAT WE WOULD CERTAINLY POSE NO PRECONDITIONS OURSELVES TO TALKS. PRATT SHOULD NOTE THIS ORALLY TO SRV LIAISON OFFICER AND INDICATE THAT WE WILL BE BACK IN TOUCH REGARDING OUR REPRESENTATIVE AND A SUGGESTED DATE FOR SUCH TALKS.

4. PRATT SHOULD ALSO ADVISE SRV REPRESENTATIVE THAT COMMISSION'S REPORT TO PRESIDENT HAS BEEN RELEASED AND A COPY IS BEING FORWARDED BY MR. WOODCOCK VIA EMBASSY PARIS FOR VICE MINISTER PHAN HIEN.

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